



**City Forest Credits
Carbon Planting Project Application**

1. Project Name

Advancing Tree Equity in Providence – 2021

2. Project Type

Planting

3. Project Location

Incorporated City of Providence, Rhode Island

4. Project Operator

Provide name of organization/entity, and contact information

Organization/Entity: American Forests

Address: 1220 L Street, NW, Suite 750

City: Washington, DC

State: District of Columbia

Zip: 02860

Contact(s): Maisie Hughes, Molly Henry (primary contact)

Phone: 202-737-1944

Email: mhughes@americanforests.org; mhenry@americanforests.org

5. Project Description

Provide short narrative including location, number or acres of trees, and overall goals

Between November 2019 to November 2021, Providence Neighborhood Planting Program (PNPP) has planted 1,020 trees across the city of Providence. They achieved this through their community-driven tree planting model, working with residents and community groups to

identify planting sites and working with neighborhood volunteers to plant the trees. Neighborhoods with lower [Tree Equity Scores](#) were prioritized to receive new trees in order to cool neighborhoods and improve air quality that disproportionately impacts Providence's lowest canopy neighborhoods. Many of these projects are in [formerly redlined neighborhoods](#) where there are larger populations of people of color and people in poverty, and where the public health and social burdens correlated with tree inequity and other forms of environmental racism are most present.

6. Project Benefits

Provide short narrative of the impacts this project will achieve. Examples include how the project addresses increased access to green spaces for under-resourced communities, flood control, watershed protection, human health benefits, recreation or bird and wildlife habitat.

PNPP's community-driven tree planting model invites neighbors to engage and coordinate with each other in order to submit a Neighborhood Street Tree Planting application and implement a tree planting event with their neighbors and other members of the community. This promotes social cohesion by bringing neighbors together for a common cause and caring for the trees together over time.

PNPP prioritizes tree planting activities in lower tree canopy neighborhoods. As of 2020, PNPP and the City of Providence are able to use American Forests' [Tree Equity Score Analyzer](#) (TESA) to identify priority areas for tree planting. Rhode Island is the first state in the nation to receive a TESA, a state-of-the-art tool that combines demographic, health, urban heat island and tree canopy data and displays it on an interactive map that identifies priority locations for planting and protecting trees. PNPP uses TESA to assess where trees are most needed ensuring that all tree planting projects will improve Tree Equity Scores and bring the many co-benefits of urban tree canopy to those most in need.

7. Number of trees to be planted and general planting-design

Provide number of trees and general planting design.

Single-tree dispersed (spaced 10" or more apart, i.e. street trees or linear plantings)of:

1,020 Trees Total

- 1,039 Street trees planted along the City right-of-way (sidewalks, lawn strips, medians, etc.)
- 81 Trees planted on other city-owned and managed properties (schools, fire stations, parks, etc.)

8. Additional Information

Provide additional information about your project. Examples include collaboration with other partners or how this project fits into a larger effort.

The Providence Neighborhood Planting Program (PNPP) is a tree planting partnership between the Mary Elizabeth Sharpe Providence Neighborhood Planting Program Fund, the City of Providence, and the residents and community members of Providence. Since 1988, the Mary Elizabeth Sharpe Street Endowment has matched Providence Parks Department funds to provide trees, soil, sidewalk preparation and tree delivery at no cost to Providence residents who apply for and receive Neighborhood Street Tree Planting Awards.

Each year, PNPP and its partners plant and maintain approximately 500-550 street trees to improve public health, climate resilience and tree equity throughout the City of Providence. The organization also manages the Providence Community Tree Keeper program, which is composed of a robust community of dedicated and engaged advocates who are trained and authorized to provide structural pruning and maintenance of young trees, and who help maintain and care for the City's "street treescape".

PNPP is one of the lead partners of the [PVD Tree Plan](#): a collaborative, multi-stakeholder initiative to develop an equity-focused comprehensive strategic vision and action plan for creating a healthy and equitable forest in Providence. The plan has a strong equity lens and builds off the City's [Climate Justice Plan](#).

This carbon project serves as a pilot for PNPP and the City of Providence, who hope to establish a long-term carbon credit program that quantifies the many co-benefits that their urban trees provide as part of their street tree planting and stewardship programs. PNPP and the City of Providence have an agreement with [American Forests](#) to manage the administrative tasks and identify buyers for the carbon credits generated from this project. The funding generated through the sale of carbon credits will help support long-term maintenance of Providence's urban forest and additional needs that are identified by community members during the planning process.

Signed on December 16th in 2021, by Ian Leahy, VP of Urban Forestry for American Forests.

Ian D Leahy

Signature

Ian D Leahy

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